

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02702 131229Z

53

ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, SU

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS: SUDAN

REF: (A) STATE 220772 (B) KHARTOUM 2657 (C) KHARTOUM 2611

1. CHARGE DISCUSSED CONTENTS REFTEL IN GENERAL TERMS SEPTEMBER 7 WITH MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FRANCIS DENG AND IN MORE DETAIL SEPTEMBER 9 WITH MFA DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS HASSAN ADAM OMAR. GOS OFFICIALS SEEMED GENUINELY APPRECIATIVE OF OUR INTEREST IN CONSULTING WITH THEM. THEY ALSO RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO GENERAL US APPROACH TO UNGA SESSION AS OUTLINED PARAS 3 AND 4 REF A, ALTHOUGH DENG CAUTIONED AGAINST US APPEARING TO BE UNINTERESTED IN VIEWS ON ISSUES WHICH DID NOT COMFORTABLY MESH WITH OUR OWN. CHARGE STRESSED THAT US WANTS FRUITFUL DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADITIONALLY THORNY POLITICAL ISSUES, BUT WE WERE IMPATIENT WITH STERILE POSTURING.

2. ISSUES WHICH ARE OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO GOS ARE ESSENTIALLY SAME AS THOSE LISTED IN PARA 3 REF A. GOS OBJECTIVES CAN PROBABLY BE DESCRIBED BEST BY SAYING THAT SUDANESE OFFICIALS WANT TO SEE MOVEMENT
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 02702 131229Z

TOWARD RESOLUTION OF MOST PRESSING MIDDLE EAST,

SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES. WHEN CHARGE SUGGESTED THAT IT MAY BE BEST PERHAPS TO LET SOME TRADITIONALLY DIFFICULT ISSUES LIE FALLOW FOR A YEAR, HASSAN DISAGREED SAYING THAT IT IMPORTANT, FOR EXAMPLE, TO REMIND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY EVERY YEAR OF PLIGHT OF PALESTINIANS. HE ADMITTED THAT NOTHING WILL HAPPEN THIS YEAR RE MIDDLE EAST UNTIL ARABS SORT THEMSELVES OUT OVER LEBANON CRISIS. HASSAN ALSO SAID THAT IN AFRICAN CONTEXT PARTICULARLY THERE GROWING IMPATIENCE WITH LACK OF REAL ADVANCEMENT TOWARD RESOLVING PERENNIAL PROBLEMS.

3. GOS SHARES US VIEW THAT INTEGRITY OF UN CHARTER MUST BE PRESERVED. HOWEVER, SUDANESE MADE POINT THAT VETO PRIVILEGE BEING ABUSED, AND THAT MOST PRESENT MEMBERS OF UN HAD NOT OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN FORMULATION OF UN CHARTER. VETO IS SEEN AS PREVENTING WILL OF MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FROM BEING HEARD. THEREFORE, UN CHARTER MAY HAVE TO BE CHANGED TO PREVENT ABUSE OF VETO.

4. ON OTHER ISSUES GOS POSITION REGARDING KOREA HAS BEEN REPORTED SEPARATELY (REF B). CHARGE BRIEFED DENG AND HASSAN ON RECENT SOUTHERN AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM AND EARLIER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MAKKAWI WE SENSED A "WAIT-AND-SEE" ATTITUDE REGARDING PRESENT USG INITIATIVES. SIMILARLY ON ZIONISM/RACISM ISSUE, GOS OFFICIALS DID NOT INDICATE A READINESS TO MOVE TOWARD OUR POSITION DESPITE OUR ARGUMENT THAT UN ACTIONS ON THIS MATTER HAVE NOT DONE MUCH GOOD FOR PALESTINIANS. ON CYPRUS HASSAN SAID GOS POSITION IS TO OPPOSE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN (I.E. TURKISH) TROOPS. HE SEEMED PESSIMISTIC THAT SYG COULD ACCOMPLISH MUCH. RE WESTERN SAHARA GOS ESSENTIALLY SHARES OUR VIEW. HASSAN SAID ISSUE IS NOT YET INSCRIBED ON UNGA AGENDA, BUT ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL BE. REGARDING IOPZ HASSAN SAID THAT THERE WILL BE A CONFERENCE OF RIPARIAN STATES TO WHICH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES INCLUDING US WILL BE INVITED. HE SAID NEITHER TIME NOR PLACE HAD BEEN SET YET, HOWEVER. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KHARTO 02702 131229Z

ONLY OTHER SUBJECT WHICH SUDAN OFFICIALS DISCUSSED WITH SPECIAL INTEREST WAS UN RESTRUCTURING. DENG SEEMED GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH SUBJECT, AND HE SAID GOS VERY INTERESTED IN ITS OUTCOME PARTICULARLY SINCE IT THINKS IT ESPECIALLY APPLICABLE TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND DESIRES.

6. HASSAN WHO WILL BE IN NEW YORK FOR UNGA SAID HE

WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH MEMBERS USUN STAFF AND TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS WITH US DURING GA. HE ALSO ATTENDED COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. HE INSISTED THAT NON-ALIGNED STATES ATTEMPTED TO BE MODERATE AND REALISTIC IN COLOMBO PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO ECONOMIC MATTERS. HE ALSO TOLD CHARGE THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE TOWARDS COMMUNIST NON-ALIGNED STATES THIS YEAR. HE DESCRIBED MEMBERS OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AS WORKING TOWARD JOINT SELF-RELIANCE.

7. COMMENT: SUDAN IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ONE OF THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS IN NEW YORK, BUT IT DOES PROVIDE INTERESTING PERSPECTIVE ON ARAB, AFRICAN AND GENERAL NON-ALIGNED ISSUES. IN GENERAL SUDAN IS MODERATE ON ISSUES, AND WE BELIEVE WITH CAREFUL CULTIVATION SUDAN DEL COULD PROVE HELPFUL TO US DURING 31ST UNGA (SEE REF C). EMBASSY ENCOURAGES USUN TO FOLLOW-UP CHARGE'S MEETINGS HERE AND TO CONSULT WITH HASSAN AND OTHER MEMBERS SUDAN DEL IN NEW YORK DURING GA.
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